

Conestoga College nominees to board of governors

By Allana Gillam-Wright

Nominees to Conestoga College's board of governors are being accepted until June 2.

The board is seeking a qualified applicant to fill a vacancy left by Jan Hayward, who is retiring after two terms in office.

Applicants are chosen from members of the public after they submit a com-

plete resume and supporting documents to the office of the president.

"The names are reviewed by the board and we submit the names which we feel are the best qualified to the Ontario Council of Regents (which works under the guidelines set down by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities). Our recommendations are sometimes accepted, sometimes not," said He-

lena Webb, assistant to college president John Tibbits.

The Council of Regents, which gives final approval, also requests applicants fill out a self-identification form or profile to better enable them to know the applicants.

The profile asks the applicants if they are employed, and if so, in what economic sector. It also inquires about ethnic origin —

whether they are Aboriginal or Francophone — or if they are a person with a disability, or female.

In the past, according to Webb, a few board members have declined to fill out the questionnaire.

Each member appointed to the board serves a term of three years, at the end of which they also have the opportunity to serve two additional terms if the Council of Re-

gents has no objections.

Board members receive no pay and participation is voluntary.

Besides the 12 members selected from outside the college, there are also four internal elected members representing the various areas of the college. These members include a representative from administration, faculty, support staff and the student body.

Mysterious
flowers
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SPOKE

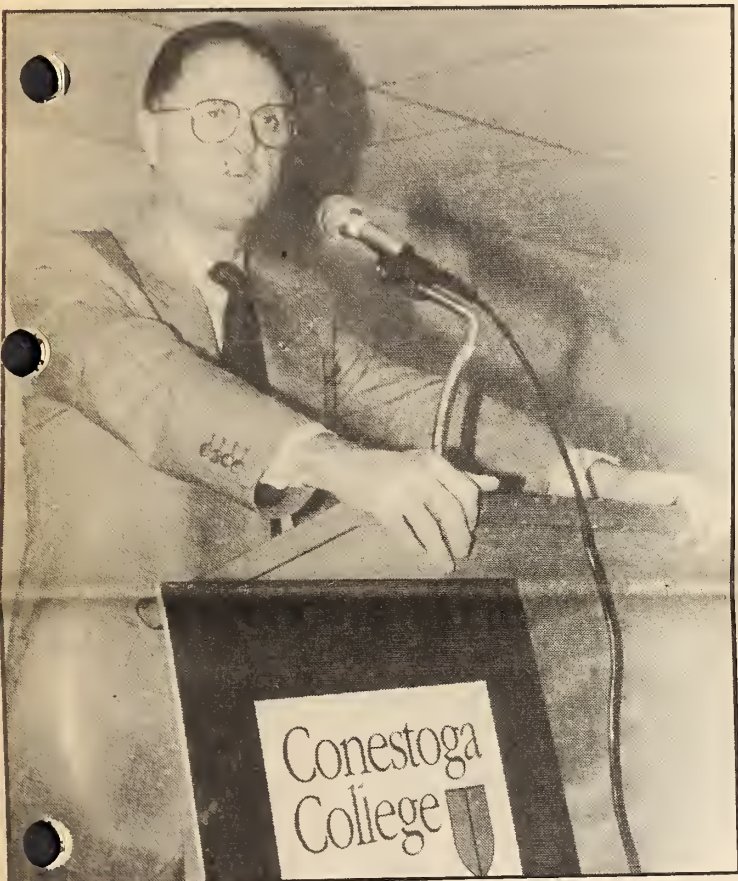
DSA opposes
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Vol 25, No.16

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ont.

May 31, 1993

Bankrupt government a boon, business leaders told



John Bulloch addresses about 250 business leaders.

(Photo by Kenton Augerman)

By John Summers

A bankrupt government may sound like a nightmare to some people, but it's something John Bulloch is looking forward to.

"My biggest worries over the last few years happen every time governments get some money in their pockets — they try to do something," said Bulloch, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, in a speech at a small-business breakfast on May 20 in the Doon cafeteria's blue room.

"And every time they try to do something they just create problems for the rest of us — more regulation, more red tape, more complexity," he said.

"I'm looking forward to the decade in which bankrupt governments are going to have to cooperate and their focus will be on simplifying the system."

The breakfast, attended by about 250 local business leaders, was organized by Conestoga's school of business to spotlight the new small business certificate program beginning this September.

Divided into three sections, Bulloch's speech, Preparing for the 21st Century: Small Business in the '90s, sent a clear message to Cana-

dian entrepreneurs by tying together the operation of a small business, global economic restructuring and the deficit.

"(Small business) is perseverance, it's recognizing opportunity and moving very quickly," he said. "You can have the economy going down the sewer and be growing by 30 or 40 per cent per year, if you're innovative."

Bulloch said the nature of any firm is changing because international activity is being divided around the world on a functional basis.

"The only difference between global firms and what's happening locally is you've got satellites in between all those computers and telephones," he said.

"But you've got the same kind of unwinding, unravelling, decentralization and restructuring domestically as a result of the same forces."

Bulloch blamed government forecasting, which he called "PhDs throwing darts in the wall," as one of the reasons why entrepreneurs are not willing to invest in themselves.

But, Bulloch said, small businesses are successful because they can easily adapt and fulfill the demands of an economy which constantly redefines its needs.

"Big companies will be downsizing all through the '90s, job-grading and downsizing. Half of all the jobs being created in Canada are by companies less than five years old."

"There will be no new job creation from the major corporate sector, on balance, anywhere in the world."

As for the deficit, he said Ontario must eliminate 80,000 public servants over a five-year period before downsizing the government's role in the province.

If that fails to happen, Bulloch expects "a new kind of Canada, in which we're more self-reliant and the 'free lunch' mentality will come to an end. The social contract is a social con."

He said once individuals realize their potential, entrepreneurs will strengthen and the small-business community will grow stronger.

Kitchener MP John Reimer, one of several local government officials at the breakfast, said Bulloch's speech was practical and honest.

"Bulloch's speech painted a realistic picture, but also a hopeful one. Yes, we have problems. We're always opposed to a serious sort of crisis, yet in the crisis is opportunity. He kept saying that."

College cuts jobs and staff

By Allana Gillam-Wright

The 1993/94 school year for Conestoga College will be one of budget cuts, layoffs and cutbacks.

Already trying to deal with the projected \$4.5 million deficit the college is facing, Conestoga is now trying to slash another \$800,000 to \$1 million from operating costs, after the NDP provincial government announced in late April that it plans to cut \$170 million in operating grants to Ontario colleges and universities.

Kevin Mullan, vice-president, finance and operations, presented the new cost cutting measures to the board of governors at its May 17 meeting.

In an effort to save money, Conestoga will try to move programs currently offered at leased facilities onto existing campuses.

The recreational leadership program, which was offered at the YWCA in Waterloo, will be moved to the Waterloo campus.

The general business and office systems administrations programs in Waterloo will be moved to the

Doon campus in September, as will the business and material management and general business courses currently offered in Guelph.

The futures program in Guelph, which is held in a leased facility, will be moved to the Speedvale campus.

The welding course in Cambridge and the appliance and heat pump program in Waterloo will both be moved to the Guelph campus.

It is estimated these changes will save the college \$500,000.

Canada Employment has also cut a number of retraining programs and has placed a condition of acceptance to a college program before providing funding to students seeking retraining.

Mullan said there would be a reduction of 41 academic staff members, which would provide a saving to the college of \$2,750,000.

The support staff would be cut by 22, to further save \$800,000, and management would lose seven or eight people, which would cut costs by \$310,000.

The total saving is \$3,860,000.

Changes to occur in LASA program

By Beckl Chmielewski

Several changes — including a 50 per cent increase in first-year students — will be made to the law and security administration (LASA) program at the Doon campus of Conestoga College.

According to Bob Hays, co-ordinator, enrolment for September will increase to 150 first-year students, up from 100 last year.

"We've had a lot of applicants. We had over 1,000 before May 1 and, I think, several hundred after that. Employers are looking for highly-motivated, mature people, who have excellent communication skills and knowledge of their area."

"The first big change is that the first year is what we (the LASA faculty) call the common first year. This is where the students will be introduced to law, investigation, careers, human relations, communications and the whole judicial system," Hays said.

Within the careers course area, students will take part in a selection process and, based on their interests, see if they qualify for the special streaming areas.

These areas are divided into seven different fields: police, corrections, customs, investigations, security, insurance and legal assistants.

The police option is broken down into the public force (such as OPP and municipal forces) and private.

The corrections option offers training as guards in

both federal and provincial jails and correctional institutions and halfway houses such as John Howard Society.

Students who chose to go into the customs option will learn about being an inspector at the border or a customs broker, who helps the businesses clear their shipments with customs.

The investigations options is broken into private investigation, and a number of various government investigations such as unemployment insurance and workman's compensation.

In the security module, students could be employed in resource protection, loss prevention and application of technology to property crime.

If the insurance option is chosen, students could work as an adjuster or case worker. A case worker is someone who works with an individual to obtain recovery as soon as possible.

As a legal assistant, students would be trained as law clerks, in paralegal operations (people who work in government offices) and in courts.

"People in their first year (of the program) will strike up an interest and say that they want one of those (options). Then we will put them through a rather intense selection process working with the (hiring) agency people. If they clear that, they will be enrolled in the second-year specialty (options)," Hays said.

SPOKE

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Scaling Cherry's grapevine

As the National Hockey League post-season roars toward its ultimate destination — the Stanley Cup final — millions of fanatics are glued to their televisions watching the institution known as Hockey Night in Canada.



By Kenton Augerman

Aside from the on-ice activity, many fans are riveted to Coach's Corner, a segment that appears during selected first-period intermissions. The star of the segment, of course, is Don Cherry, outspoken ex-coach of the Boston Bruins and Colorado Rockies.

Cherry is notorious for his blue collar and nationalistic attitudes, as well as for his wardrobe. I've seen people hang on Cherry's every word and cheer boisterously when he says something agreeable to them.

What is it about Cherry that fixates people? What makes Grapes the Svengali figure he is?

"A lot of people have said to me, 'Why do you think he is so popular?' and I really don't know," Cherry's wife, Rose, said in an interview.

"To tell you the truth, I cannot believe what has happened to Don. The amount of mail he gets and his popularity — we still don't know what happened that Don Cherry has taken off the way he has."

According to Christine Rivet, sportswriter for the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, people like Cherry because they perceive him as "an average guy." Moreover, "he's not afraid to say what we're all thinking."

Cherry shares the blue-collar mentality of many of his viewers, said Dave Langford, sports editor of the Globe and Mail. "He sort of bottom-lines it to the beer-drinking, bar-crowd segment of Canada that really enjoys hockey."

Though I consider myself very much a part of this segment of the population, I don't find Grapes's shtick appealing. To me, his routine seems overblown, much like that of a World Wrestling Federation commentator.

And it's predictable, with Cherry delivering essentially the same diatribe every time. First, he'll laud the efforts of a "spear carrier." Next, he'll blame rules to curb fighting for an increased amount of stick-swinging.

Then he'll accuse a European player of taking a job away from a Canadian. Finally, he'll verbally abuse co-host Ron MacLean, raise his thumb in the air like The Fonz and sit back as if his utterances were profound.

In my opinion, part of Grapes's appeal stems from the fact he performs without a safety net. Any night could be his last.

Rose Cherry agrees. "One night he is going to go too far," she said. "He's going to blurt something out that's just going to shove him right off the air. It's going to happen; we know it is. It's just a matter of when."

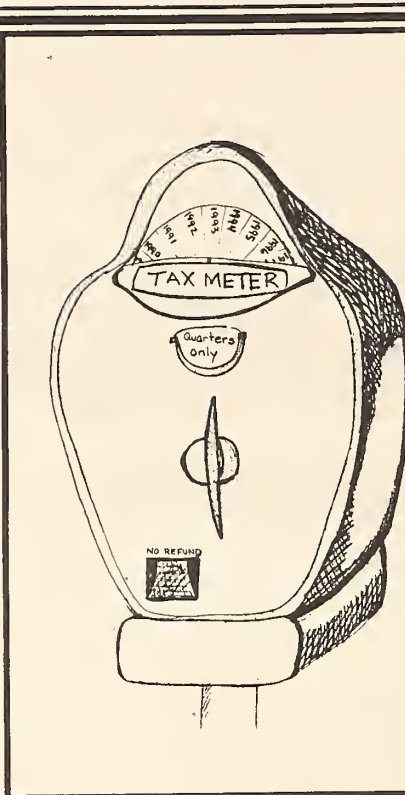
When it does, and Don Cherry falls, I won't miss him one bit. But millions of other Canadian hockey fans will.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
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OPINION

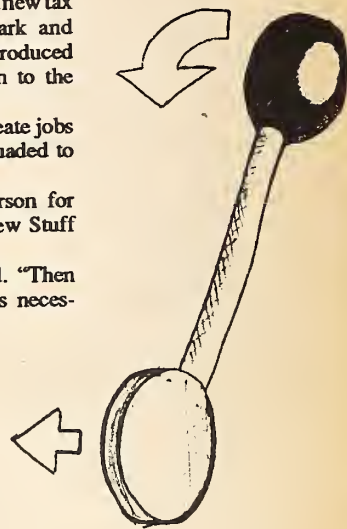


Bob Rae's NDP government announced today the creation of a new tax collecting agency named Park and Gamble. The agency had introduced The Stuff Box as its solution to the deficit crisis in Ontario.

The device is expected to create jobs if manufacturers can be persuaded to move here.

Emma Bearas, a spokesperson for Park and Gamble, said the new Stuff Box is easy to use.

"Insert a quarter," she said. "Then pull the handle. . . Repeat as necessary."



Foreign aid better spent in Canada

Canadians have long been known for their generosity — always willing to provide troops, financial aid and relief to the farthest parts of the world. Canadians are humanitarians.

However, for all the pride our international efforts have created and all the fame these efforts have garnered, Canadians often ignore the poverty which exists in our own grand nation.

In 1986, according to the National Council of Welfare, some 3,976,000 Canadians were living in poverty. By 1991 that number had risen to 4,227,000 — a difference of 251,000 people.

At the same time, Canadians were giving millions of dollars in aid to foreign nations.

In 1985, according to the Canadian International Development Agency, emergency food aid worth \$348 million was given by Canada to less fortunate nations around the globe. In 1987-88, Canada provided about \$2.7 billion in assistance to developing nations.

This same money could have been used by families and individuals in Canada who live below the



By Hilary Ibbotson

poverty line, who regularly use food banks and who find themselves unemployed and unemployable for lack of training or medical reasons.

It is easy to say that welfare and unemployment insurance benefits provide enough money to families and individuals who find themselves living below the poverty line. However, government coffers are quickly depleted and growing deficits make welfare and social service tempting areas for cuts.

Why are taxes constantly being raised and services being cut when we have these large amounts of money to give away to other nations?

Should these funds not be used to help defray the costs of programs in our own country first?

Imagine what \$2.7 billion, or even a quarter of that amount, could

have done for aboriginal people living in Davis Inlet, Labrador.

Imagine what an eighth of \$2.7 billion could do for the more than 1.2 million Canadian children under 18 living in poverty — children whose parents cannot afford to pack them a lunch or buy them new shoes.

It is easy to enjoy the prestige and the feeling of accomplishment that comes with providing foreign aid to other nations. It is nice to know that Canadians are respected around the globe for their honesty and commitment.

However, it would be even nicer if every Canadian were able to enjoy those feelings of pride without worrying about eating tomorrow or wondering how the next month's rent will be paid.

Involvement in foreign humanitarian aid is a wonderful feather in the cap of every Canadian, but perhaps we should accept that feather with some hesitancy and with an awareness that some fellow Canadians need help as well.

Let's take care of our own people first.

Charity should begin at home.

Plastics recycling does not go far enough

Does this sound familiar? It's Sunday night and the large Blue Box, provided by the municipality to recycle cans, bottles and newspapers, is sitting in the garage awaiting the routine of separating out those nasty plastic containers that have no place to go.

Each household in Kitchener-Waterloo has limited options when recycling plastics because these products are not included in the twin cities Blue Box program.

K-W's population exceeds 260,000 and with a program already in operation for three years, people may wonder why such a service does not include recycling all types of plastic. It seems foolish not to include them in any worthwhile program. Money seems a more important part of the agenda.

Recycling methods are fairly new to some households. But neglecting to take this issue seriously only hinders the whole reduce, recycle



By Colleen Connachan

and reuse program.

BFI Waste Systems, a local garbage service, is under contract with the City of Kitchener for pickup and delivery of all blue box collectables. As for the City of Waterloo, City of Cambridge and surrounding townships, all have contracts with other local garbage services. However, for all municipalities, blue box collectables are dropped off at the Region of Waterloo's Material Recovery Centre on Erb Street in Waterloo.

This is where blue box collectables are sorted and then shipped out to various markets. For example, plastics (beverage containers)

would go to a recycling centre such as Twin Pak, where they are transformed into underlay for carpets, while aluminum is usually sent to Alcan.

So then, how would other plastics with the recycling logo on them become an extra chore, when the process already includes the need of numerous individual services to recycle the blue box collectables.

BFI's recycling co-ordinator, Mark Davis, said the catch is that only products that bear a No. 1 symbol in the middle of the reduce, reuse and recycle logo are accepted. This generally means only beverage containers.

Back to the beginning again. Those shampoo bottles, margarine containers, pudding cups are at the same place they have always been . . . sitting in the garage collecting dust until that nifty blue box program takes on the whole recycling process rather than just part of it.

You tell us

Should Canadian peacekeepers be banned from peacekeeping activities if they belong to white supremacy groups?



Yes, they should be banned because if they have a prejudice before they go into a situation, then they cannot peacekeep properly. There is no harmony.
Linda Varga
Nursing, first semester



No, they shouldn't be banned. They are there to make peace with other countries and being a white supremacist shouldn't be bad.
Carla Sison
Nursing, first semester



Yes, they should be banned because if they are biased it could create problems in the countries where they are peacekeeping.
Robert Erickson
Mechanical engineering, third year.



No, they shouldn't be banned because they are being put at risk while representing our country. Assuming they can still carry out their duties, it's all right.
George McKenzie
Electronics faculty



Yes, because there are blacks in the military and white supremacists could cause conflicts in the ranks.
Kevin Boland
Monsignor Doyle high school, Cambridge



No, because if they can get their jobs done then they should still be able to peacekeep for their country.
Joanne Woodhall
Nursing, first semester

By Jason Schmidt

June convocation set

By Kathleen Sibley

Conestoga wraps up its 25th anniversary on June 11-12 with convocation for 2,800 graduates at Doon's Recreation Centre.

June 11 at 5 p.m. features diploma and certificate program graduates of health sciences, access and preparatory studies, continuing education, and training and development; June 12, at 10 a.m., graduates of business and engineering technology programs, will be honored; and at 2 p.m., another ceremony will be held for graduates of applied arts, and trades and apprenticeship programs.

University of Waterloo economist Larry Smith, recently honored by the UW with an outstanding faculty award, will be the convocation

speaker at the events.

Smith, who has gained renown as a "good news economist" through his teaching, public appearances and writing, will receive an honorary Conestoga College shield, inscribed and framed, for his contribution to public knowledge and education.

The college will also present the Governor General's Academic Medal for scholastic excellence, the James W. Church Achievement Award for combined academic ex-

cellence and public service, the Conestoga College Mastercraft Award for student achievement in program-related technical project work, and the Aubrey Hagar Award for teaching excellence by a faculty member in a full-time program.

Correction

An article entitled Nobody Above the Law, which appeared in the May 17 issue of Spoke, implied student David Norcott received a ticket for parking in the fire zone.

On this occasion, Norcott received it for parking in lot #5. Spoke regrets the error.

More parking for 'essential' personnel

By Tim Pozza

Conestoga College's Doon campus waste management facilities will be centralized to make room for extra parking along the controversial fire route in front of Doon's main building.

Part of the plan has already been put into effect, according to Bob Gilberts, head of Doon security.

A set of stairs leading from a loading platform to the right of door four of Doon's main building was removed beginning May 13.

There is a possibility that the wall around the dumpster may be torn down as well.

According to Barry Milner, head of physical resources, the dumpster will be moved to a receiving area near the bookstore.

All future handling of garbage will be done from this location.

"There will be some parking there when the bin is moved, for essential personnel like security, emergency services and the president," he said.

The area is currently used by Beaver Foods' drivers.

Social contract talks concern faculty and support staff union members

By Gary Wiebe

Ontario Premier Bob Rae's attempts at deficit-reduction through the negotiation of a social contract are not receiving a very warm welcome from Conestoga College's unionized workforce.

Locals 237 and 238 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union represent close to 600 faculty and support staff at the college.

Ann Wallace, president of local 238, representing support staff, said local OPSEU members "are not going to budge" on the issue.

The social contract currently being negotiated by the government and a coalition of 28 public sector unions includes the elimination of 11,000 jobs, a five per cent wage rollback in the form of 12 unpaid days off a year, wage rate increases effective this year to be "voluntarily deferred" for three years, and merit pay increases, movements in salary steps and cost-of-living allowances to be deferred as well.

The contract is part of the Rae government's austerity package designed to slash \$7 to \$9 billion from an expected deficit of \$17 billion.

John Berry, a Guelph campus business instructor who is president of OPSEU local 237, representing faculty members, said, "The most disturbing aspect of these talks that bothers me is, our current binding

contract doesn't expire until Aug. 31, 1994. It's a legal document and was negotiated in good faith. We and the college live by that. Now the government says, 'We are going to re-open the contract.' Is this going to happen every time we change governments? This is not a dictatorship, it is still a democracy."

Berry said it would have been simpler for the government to extend contracts another two years and freeze wages during that time.

He said he is also concerned about proposed job cuts.

"We have 10 to 12 per cent less faculty than we had in 1989 despite increased student enrolment and there have been 30 to 40 layoffs since then as well. Therefore, we have been operating leaner and meaner since 1989."

Sherry Johnston, chief steward for local 238, said "no one can afford rollbacks or job losses. It's not right."

Berry said teachers also will lose their step increases, an in-service teacher training course that allows for upward mobility for teachers who pay \$1,400 to enrol.

Berry also expressed concerns over pension payments, since a wage freeze will affect pensions.

"Pensions are calculated over an employee's last five years on the job and a freeze affects this calculation over a lifetime."

Berry said governments have to

be more responsible fiscally and he also doesn't believe the NDP is handling the situation properly.

"The way Rae's doing this in such a short time is a disaster." (Rae's chief negotiator, Deputy Minister Michael Decter, has set a June 4 deadline for agreement on the social contract.)

Should the current round of talks fail, the Rae government has the option of legislating the cuts.

An OPSEU survey conducted by local 238 indicates a majority of respondents are prepared to take some form of action should the talks break down, Wallace said.

These actions may include demonstrations, wearing buttons or working-to-rule.

Wallace said she doesn't think a failure to reach an agreement will result in a strike, although she doesn't rule out the possibility.

Johnston agreed, saying, "No one wants to go out on strike. For now, we'll just have to wait and see what happens."

Berry admits to little support for the union's position from the general public.

"The public's not behind us, but we're taxpayers like everyone else," he said.

"People have a wrong idea about civil servants. We're not the fat cats people seem to think we are. We have concerns about job security and pensions just like everyone else."

Year-End Party/Bash

Friday, June 4, 1993

Conestoga College's Special Needs Office, Doon Campus invites you to bring a date, bring a friend or bring a mate.

FOR ONLY \$10.00 YOU CAN ENJOY

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Dancing from 9 p.m.

Celebrate the end of this school year and/or your graduation with friends, classmates and colleagues.

Tickets are available from:
Special Needs Office, Doon Campus
Student Services, Guelph Campus
Student Services, Waterloo Campus

Come and help make Special Needs Year-End Bash/Party a huge success.

for further information, or to volunteer your help call Special Needs Office, Doon Campus at (519) 748-5220 ext. 232

Past DSA vice-president says students not taken seriously

By Kim Huson

The DSA's 1992 vice-president of communications says he is happy his days at Conestoga College have drawn to a close.

"In electives and different courses, you hear all about management theories and working relationships, but I found the college doesn't practise what is taught in its own classrooms," said Mark Weicker, 23, of Kitchener.

"Now, I just sit back and laugh because I'm so glad I'm out. I was getting more and more down.

The management should be listening to the students, the support staff, faculty and other people in management to get a team going together."

Weicker got involved with the

DSA executive after spending two years on the board of directors, deciding to see how things worked with the college and the student association.

"It was a challenge personally and scholastically to maintain the balance," said the marketing graduate. "I enjoyed the involvement and the personal growth achieved through that involvement."

If he had to do it all over, Weicker said, he would push 10 times harder to get things done. "I would like to get a firm commitment from the college with regards to a student centre."

Due to the DSA's major contributions to the college's fundraising campaign, Weicker said, the college should lease the student government a piece of land for a

student centre, providing the DSA with more freedom in organizing events separate from the college.



Weicker

Weicker said a student centre would be extremely popular and could include conference rooms, a lounge and a bar.

"Two or three years ago, the (student) president at the time, John Lassel, had plans drawn up by the

technology students, but I have no idea where they are, if they're still around."

Last year, pub manager Dave McQuillin discussed the potential for a student centre with college president John Tibbits, said Weicker.

"Nothing was set in stone. It was going to be discussed with our government but it was never discussed to the point where something was written on paper.

The last I heard, Johnny (Tibbits) said he's not interested in building a student centre."

Involvement with the DSA puts you in the hierarchical structure of the college, said Weicker, adding it helped him to learn to play the political game and find hidden agendas.

It's easy for the students to see the gap between themselves and the college and the DSA has the challenge in filling this gap, he says.

"Try to get management to understand that and they are looking at you as if you're screwed in the head."

College management has the advantage of being permanent, whereas the DSA changes every year, Weicker said.

The incoming DSA members will have to learn how to play the political game themselves but the current group laid a lot of groundwork for them, said Weicker.

"People have gained respect for the DSA and realized these are not just punk kids out of high school," said Weicker.

Former DSA president looks back at past and moves on to new work

By Kim Huson

The past president of the Doon Student Association says he wanted the student body to have fun during the 1992-93 school year.

"Last year (1991-92) I don't think anyone really knew who the student government was and I wanted to change that this year," said marketing graduate Todd Sutherland.

Sutherland, 28, of Kitchener, said

he was convinced to run for DSA president by a classmate, but now thinks the position opened new doors for him. He said the experience with student government helped him personally and professionally. "You learn how to carry yourself professionally and to speak in public. I'm a lot more confident that way now," Sutherland said.

He said he spent approximately

20 hours a week on DSA concerns. "It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and determination."

Student participation is lacking at Doon, said Sutherland, but he added that it is improving from previous years. "We had a few successful events. Rock 'n' Bowl was new this year and about 75 people were at the last one."

Sutherland said he was also pleased with his executive's efforts

in renovating the student lounge and buying pool tables. However, he said, the on-campus pubs were often disappointing.

"Students are at school all day and they don't want to come back at night to party. A student centre is in the works and it should be around in the next couple years, we hope."

Sutherland predicted the DSA will continue to improve in the coming year with Ron Lehman as

president. He said the new executive is already looking at the market research project, completed by the DSA during the past school year.

"They are going to try to implement some of the recommendations from the project to better serve the student body."

Sutherland is currently working in Toronto in marketing and sales and said anyone who sees him around had better stop and say hi.

Entertainment manager to improve relations

By Duncan R. Inglis

Doon Student Association's new entertainment manager hopes "to stay diversified enough to present fresh ideas" and get students more involved in the next year.

Brad Logel, a second-year broadcasting — radio and television student, said he has plans for increasing ticket sales for entertainment events and will explore more off-campus pubs.

He said the Doon campus cafeteria atmosphere needs improvement, calling it "a little stale."

A better working relationship with Spoke and Logel's connections with campus' radio station CRKZ will help promote cafeteria acts, he said.

Logel said he hopes to provide Spoke with biographical material on booked acts, so a reporter can preview the act before the show, as opposed to reviewing it afterwards.

The annual Homegrown Talent Night was cancelled this year due to poor advance ticket sales.

"Band members would be a great way of selling tickets," said Logel, "and it promotes the school if they sell to friends outside the college."

"I'm just looking at young, up-and-coming, and inexpensive rock and roll bands."

He said he would like to try new things, but with a limited budget it is difficult to please everyone all the time. Noise levels also have to be kept reasonable, he said.

Logel was to be in Winnipeg from May 29 to June 3 for a conference that invites entertainers to advertise themselves to college and university representatives from across Canada. Last year, the conference was held in Halifax.

Logel said he plans to suggest at an upcoming DSA meeting



Brad Logel, DSA entertainment manager.

(Photo by Duncan Inglis)

that an events box office be set up somewhere prominent in the college. The existing bookstore, as well as a box office, could be excellent ticket outlets, he said.

Many people don't realize the DSA activities office is located downstairs to the left of the main cafeteria entrance, said Logel.

Students miss events and activities, such as on- and off-campus pubs, if they do not know where to find tickets, said Logel.

More off-campus pubs at Stages or somewhere within easy driving range are also some ideas Logel said he would

like to present.

Orientation, activities passports, and financial planning will also be part of discussions at DSA meetings this summer.

Playfair, an orientation organization, is slated to host activities for new students in an ice-breaking first week at Conestoga in September, according to Logel.

An example of a Playfair orientation activity might include throwing excess clothing (shoes, socks, hats, jackets,) into a pile and later fishing them out again.

"It's a great way to meet people," said Logel.

DSA opposes Harvey's at Doon

By Kim Huson

The Doon Student Association is not pleased with the addition of a Harvey's restaurant to the Doon campus.

"If we are trying to promote a healthy lifestyle — Harvey's is not it," said Becky Boertien, DSA activities co-ordinator, at the May 17 executive meeting.

"I think it sucks," said DSA president Ron Lehman. "What's going to happen with the students in residence? They'll be eating hamburgers all the time."

DSA executives said they are also concerned about price increases after the fast-food chain takes over the main cafeteria in September. They have decided to find out the rationale behind the switch before taking action.

In other business at the meeting, Boertien gave the executive an update from the activities office.

The student passport is close to completion, she said, and the yearly schedule of events has been completed.

The schedule includes eight licensed pubs or activities, monthly nooners and a variety of special activities, such as Rock 'n' Bowl, euchre tournaments and dinner shows. The Pond Party may be held at the deck at the recreation centre.

Boertien also said she was look-

ing into the feasibility of the DSA joining the Canadian Federation of Students. Although the DSA has never been a member, she said, "some of the services they offer may be something we would be interested in."

Pub manager Brad Logel said he is looking into a several Canadian bands for the pubs, but added the booking criteria is to find a "good band that won't cost an arm and a leg." Irene DaRosa, financial co-ordinator for the DSA, said the student government was "doing well this year as compared to last year."

She reminded the DSA that approximately \$33,000 was owing to the capital development fund.

The summer is a period of transition for the DSA, said Boertien, so no activities are planned, as the student body mainly consists of nursing and journalism students.

Along with the transition comes the training of the new executive, who will be attending a local workshop, Power of Partnership, in June.

The workshop will educate student leaders on several student issues, such as poverty and assault.

As well, members of the DSA and the Waterloo Student Association will attend a workshop on June 22 to meet college personnel and to consider what they need to become better student leaders.

Recycle

Spoke uses recycled paper. When you are done reading the paper, place it in one of the many recycle bins situated throughout the college.

Conestoga shows girls other career possibilities

By John Summers

Girls in Grades 7 and 8 were given glimpses of careers women have traditionally not entered at a workshop at Doon campus May 11.

The sessions, called Looking for Tomorrow, attracted 16 students who gave up what otherwise would have been a free day in order to learn more about the career options.

The sessions were organized by Conestoga College in conjunction with the Waterloo County school board, Skills Development and Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo and area.

Many young girls suffer from extreme feelings of low self-esteem, mainly because they are not aware of the numerous career options available to them, said Dianne Moser, executive director of Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo and area.

"If we take those girls with low

self-esteem and show them there is something out there, they realize there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

Participants in the workshop were chosen because of their dropout potential, says Moser.

But to the girls' credit, she added, they were here on one of their teachers' professional development days, which otherwise would have been a free day. "So it's their choice to be here. We didn't force them."

The workshop introduced five women who work in non-traditional fields — a crane operator, a firefighter, a police officer, an arena facilities manager and a civil engineer — and dealt with issues such as discrimination.

"Speaking out makes a big difference," Waterloo regional police Const. Carol McKay told the girls. "Speak out when people are being discriminatory, or when somebody cracks a joke while you're walking

by. You have to say something."

In the afternoon session, the workshop participants were taken to the D.B. Detweiler Centre, where they built functional crystal radios.

"One of the main goals (of the workshop) is to enhance the learning experience," said Moser.

She said building the radios and taking them home gave the girls a sense of accomplishment.

The workshop, funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate, was the third in a series of five scheduled for this year.

Moser said their workshops were based largely on a project introduced by the London chapter of Big Sisters and they simply added a few ideas.

The May 11 workshop was videotaped and will be used, along with an instruction manual, as a guide for other Big Sister organizations and school boards to hold similar workshops in their areas.

The long, hard haul to success

By Kathleen Sibley

A few years ago, Mariana Monsalve spoke no English. And with only a Grade 8 education, it looked to her as if she faced a lifetime of factory jobs and menial labor.

On May 21, Monsalve graduated from Conestoga's nursing program with a "strong B average."

The 26-year-old said she, her husband and three-year-old son came to Canada in 1986 as political refugees from Chile.

They lived for a month in a Cambridge motel before moving to an apartment and until she found an interpreter, even the simplest tasks were monumental.

One waitress, mystified by Monsalve's efforts to request milk for her child, "brought everything but milk," she said.

Today, however, the person who once had to resort to gestures and pictures speaks English with the ease and colloquialisms of a native.

"I felt like I was on Mars," said Monsalve of her first months in a new country. That, she said, was the nudge she needed to enrol in an English as a second language class.

But after four months in school, Monsalve said, she had acquired only the most elementary tools for survival, such as giving basic personal information.

It was not until she worked a year in a factory, making steering wheel covers, that she learned more English, including, she said, a variety of four-letter words.

"People laughed at my pronunciation, but I said, 'No matter what, I'm going to learn.'"

After injuring her finger, Monsalve decided she needed a better job and more education. She went to the St. Louis Centre in Cambridge and asked what she would have to do to become a nurse. "I had Grade 8. They told me to wake up. I felt awful."

But, said Monsalve, not awful enough to give up. Instead, she enrolled in Grade 9. She took physics, chemistry and other courses required for nursing.

Two years and one baby later —



Maria Monsalve breathes a sigh of relief with co-student Audrey Clarke at the nursing program's pinning ceremony May 21.

(Photo by Kathleen Sibley)

Monsalve wrote her final exams two weeks after her second child was born — she graduated.

And, with one dragon slain, it was time for the next, she said.

In September 1990, Monsalve entered the three-year nursing program at Doon campus.

Although it was not easy to study in another language and keep up with assignments while taking care of a family, Monsalve said, her classmates were "very supportive. They never treated me differently or made comments about my accent or background."

Neither did she ask for special treatment, she said. "I never made any excuses. I went through the same things everybody did."

Happy everything is finally over, she said she "couldn't have done it" without her husband's support.

Monsalve said she recently com-

pleted a 14-week placement at Cambridge Memorial Hospital where she worked days, nights and weekends.

She hopes something comes out of the job applications she has completed at local institutions, but she said she may go to Texas for a year to work.

"It's still a sacrifice, but it's for a better future for all of us (her family). You have to sacrifice."

Her future as a nurse still depends on the results of a licence exam she has to write in June, but she is confident she will do well.

Monsalve's message to other new Canadians who may be discouraged by all the obstacles that hinder their integration into Canadian society is, "Don't let anyone tell you you're not able to do something. If you're committed and you've made up your mind, you'll do it."



George Woods, an instructor at the Detweiler Centre, helps two participants make crystal radios during the Looking to Tomorrow seminar.

(Photo by John Summers)

Grads join elite group

By John Summers

For most of the 2,800 eligible graduates at this year's convocation ceremony, receiving their diplomas will mark an end to post-secondary learning.

But graduation is also an invitation to join an elite group — Conestoga's Alumni Association.

The intent of the association is to provide a focal point for students to maintain ties with the institution they graduated from," said Mary Wright, Conestoga's alumni officer.

"It's another way of giving graduates a way to keep in touch with the school," she said.

Conestoga's alumni office opened in 1988 after a steering committee of graduates drew up a constitution which set the association's operating guidelines.

A restructuring process is under way for the association's executive which will make six standing committees operational — membership services, publicity, finance, awards, student liaison and special events.

After graduating from Conestoga, some alumni have returned to help with convocation ceremonies, be guest lecturers, hold reunions and contribute to the college's financial campaigns.

Conestoga's Investing in Skills for Tomorrow campaign, an ongoing

ing \$11-million construction, renovation and equipment acquisition project, set a goal of \$250,000 to be raised by alumni members.

A brochure, telephone and newsletter blitz was integral in getting the pledges raised, said Wright.

Despite falling short of their goal, alumni have pledged over \$70,000 so far.

"Nothing like this had ever been done before," said Wright. "In talking to other colleges, it's the most any alumni group has ever raised. So if you look at it that way, we're doing quite well."

From financing the college to finishing it, alumni members also play a prominent role before and during convocation.

The Gradviser program was set up by the alumni office to allow the students at Conestoga an opportunity to speak with graduates from their programs.

Gradvisers also visit high school career days, acting as ambassadors for Conestoga.

"(Gradviser) gives potential students, with a goal in mind, a chance to see someone working in the field they're interested in," said Wright.

Convocation will also feature an alumni address, at which a former student is given a chance to speak to the graduates.

"People who come back to speak see it as quite an honor," said Wright, "and it brings back memories from their convocation."

no plans to upgrade them.

"The computers from 2B09 are also going to move in late July or August into 2A15, where 30 computers will be put. Right now there are about 24, but it will be topped up to 30," he said.

According to Hewitt, eventually all computers will be moved to the A wing of the school, installed in a secure way.

There will be no emergency doors leading in or out the rooms.

"Computer program co-ordinators don't care for the way the classrooms are now," he added.

"Some of the rooms are very long and narrow, so students have problems hearing their instructor at the back. The plan is to move the computers to more square rooms so this problem is eliminated."

Hewitt said the renovations are to take all summer.

Doon computers shuffled

By Jason Schmidt

Renovations are now taking place to make room for the new business program that will be offered this September at Conestoga's Doon campus.

"Currently, rooms 2B07 and 2B08 are being transformed from computer rooms to office space for the business faculty this fall and there is enough space for 12 faculty members," said Wayne Hewitt, of computer services at the Doon campus.

"There will be six members in one room and six in the other."

Hewitt said in order to create the necessary space for the faculty, the computers that occupied rooms 2B07 and 2B08 are being removed and placed temporarily in storage.

Hewitt said the computers are all older models of PCs and there are

Tragedy remembered

Fresh bouquets appear mysteriously at roadside crash site



Flowers mark the spot where tragedy claimed a life three years ago
(Photo by Gaynor Fletcher-Crewson)

By Gaynor Fletcher-Crewson

A small bunch of carefully-chosen flowers sit in a rusted tin can, tied to the post of a guard rail. Replaced almost daily with fresh blooms, they mark the spot where a tragedy claimed a young life, three "long" years earlier.

"There were always flowers there on the little bridge," said Heather Charles, a teacher in academic support at Conestoga College. "It would stop me and make me think whose life she had touched that they'd want to have ongoing remembrance" for so long after and with such dedication.

Teresa DaGraca was only 17 years old when she died at the wheel of her car during the early hours of Saturday, April 28, 1990.

Her passenger survived the two-car collision on Westmount Road near Bleams Road in Kitchener, as did the driver of the second vehicle.

But to this day, there are still some unanswered questions regarding the cause of the fatal accident as well as the identity of who leaves the flowers at the spot where the nose of DaGraca's car finally came to rest.

DaGraca's married sister, Lurdes Jordao, explained. "Not knowing what really happened is what hurts the most, and we have tried so hard to find the truth."

She said the survivor of her sister's car from the accident was 17-year-old Elizabeth Fonseca, who says she has lost all

memory of the accident and the moments leading up to it.

Although Fonseca was released from the hospital with slight injuries, Jordao said an ensuing lawsuit by Fonseca "was very hurtful to my parents."

She said Fonseca's parents had sent her to live out of the country and that they would now never know the true details of the accident.

The night of the accident, Jordao said, the two girls left the Portuguese club, where DaGraca was a member of the youth committee, after decorating the club for a festival the following day.

"My sister never once touched drink or drugs or anything like that. She didn't even like pop, because of the fuzz it made in her nose," Jordao insisted. "She hardly ever went out, apart from her folk-dancing group. Teresa was a good, good girl."

She explained DaGraca would perform volunteer work and said all her friends used to call her on the phone for advice.

"That is why my parents are still taking it so hard. Teresa and my mom were best friends. They would shop together and have fun with each other while I was at work all the time — they became so close," Jordao said.

For the longest time, family and friends of DaGraca would place flowers at the scene of the accident as well as at the graveside, but now, three years later, the family doesn't really know who faithfully places the flowers on the grey,

wire fence at the roadside.

"We don't know who does it, but we think it must be someone from either the Portuguese club or someone else who once knew Teresa," said Jordao. "Mom and dad don't know either." She added there are always either fresh flowers in the summer or plastic flowers in the winter.

Charles first noticed the little bouquet shortly after the accident happened, but never really knew who it was there for or what it really meant.

"It's a route I typically take to the college and it caught my attention as I passed by. Nobody ever told me, but I sort of pieced it together myself from bits of news I heard regarding the location, although I never knew for certain."

Charles said she felt moved when she saw the flowers and said it made her "think how precious life is and how we take it for granted — rushing here and there all the time."

She added that DaGraca's age really drew her attention because she was so young, and she thought about how "her parents' dreams and hopes for her had all gone," shattered beyond hope in an instant.

The flowers placed in memory of DaGraca pale under the clouds of dust stirred from the passing traffic. Petals dry and fall under a hot sun as the day goes by.

But shortly after they've fallen, another fresh and colorful bouquet will quietly appear, keeping the memory of a lost, young life alive to even a stranger.

Smiths' compilations full of squalor and despair

REVIEW

By Hilary Ibbotson

If you're contemplating suicide, you may not want to listen to over 90 minutes of The Smiths' morose lyrics.

However, if you're one of the many fans who followed this group's growth from 1983 to 1987, you will definitely want to buy the two-piece retrospective collection, aptly titled *Best... One and Best... Two*.

Although the group broke up in 1987, due to conflict between lead singer Stephen Morrissey and guitarist Johnny Marr, The Smiths legacy as one of the most depressing, yet inspirational, bands is beautifully illustrated in this collection, which takes songs from all five of the group's previous albums.

Besides Marr and Morrissey, The Smiths consisted of Andy Rourke on bass and Mike Joyce on drums.

Best... One includes the song *Hand In Glove*, which was first released in May 1983 and introduced Morrissey's poetic drone to the masses.

As well, *How Soon is Now?*, perhaps The Smiths' most well-known recording, can be found on *Best... One*. This song has recently gained some new recognition as the background music for Labatt's Ice Beer commercials.

Best... Two includes *Ask*, which is a surprisingly upbeat song for the foursome, but sticks to the standard idea of someone looking for love but too afraid to ask for it.

Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me uses the same theme of gloom and loneliness.

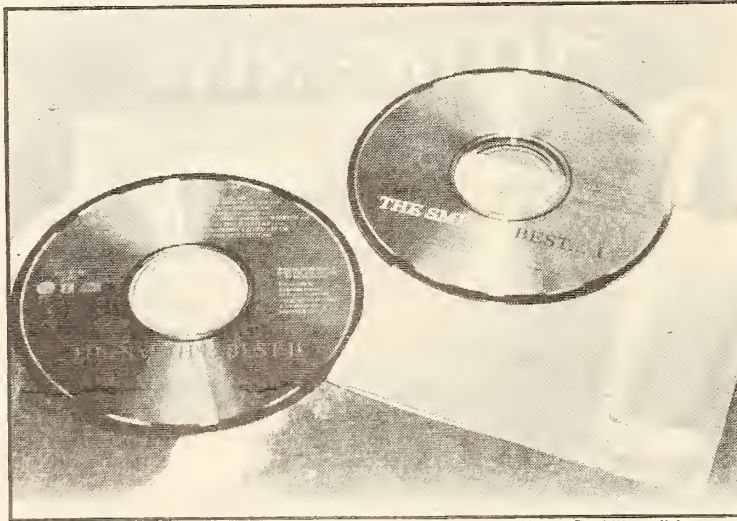
Of course, it's no wonder Morrissey should write this way since he professes to lead a celibate lifestyle.

With almost all the songs co-written by Morrissey and Marr, and melodies and harmonies that take the listener through a spectrum of emotions, The Smiths can be best remembered for unusual lyrics — like those found in the song *Bigmouth Strikes Again*, which originally appeared on the album *The Queen is Dead*.

"Sweetness, sweetness, I was only joking when I said I'd like to smash every tooth in your head. Sweetness, sweetness, I was only joking when I said by rights you should be bludgeoned in your bed," whines Morrissey, in a state of permanent melancholy.

There Is A Light That Never Goes Out, taken from the 1986 album, *Meat Is Murder*, once again tells the tale of a person desperate to go out, be accepted and be loved.

The lyrics are both interesting



(Photo By Hilary Ibbotson)

and psychotically inspirational.

"If a double-decker bus crashes into us, to die by your side, such a heavenly way to die," and "If a 10-ton truck kills the both of us, to die by your side, the pleasure, the privilege is mine."

This sombre, desperate tone continues through most of the songs on the two albums and is the trademark of the band. This may explain why they never received airplay on many radio stations.

Other appropriately dejected lyrics include: "I decree today that life is merely taking and not giving," from *Still Ill*, "I was happy in the daze of a drunken hour but heaven knows I'm miserable now," from

Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now and, from the song *Shakespeare's Sister*, "Young bones groan and the rocks below say 'Throw your skinny body down, son, C'"

The cassette versions of *Best... One* and *Best... Two* retail for \$9 to 12 each while the compact discs retail for about \$20 each.

So, if you're not too depressed after reading through this (Hopefully you haven't bought a gun, knotted a rope or turned on the gas jets yet) you should give these two albums a listen. If you aren't already a fan of The Smiths, you will be after listening to *Best... One* and *Best... Two*.

Mall hosts police week

By Jason Schmidt

The week of May 10 made Fairview Park mall in Kitchener a bad place to visit if you were a criminal, as the mall recognized Police Awareness Week.

The event, which included a play of police weapons, vehicles and rescue units, took place from May 13-15. Also included was an information booth hosted by the law and security administration (LASA) program at Conestoga College.

Susan Truppe, a second-year LASA student at Fairview Mall on May 13, said she was "here to tell people about the (LASA) program and inform them about the possible career opportunities."

Truppe said a LASA graduate has a variety of options in the field. "Forensic studies, criminology, and law enforcement are just a few careers a LASA graduate can pursue."

The information booth had pictures of Conestoga College, students, and pamphlets about the LASA course.

There was also a small display on forensic studies which included facts about identifying bodies with only dental records.

Truppe said that once she has graduated, she intends to "get into forensic studies."

Architectural highlights: Campus in Stratford stands as a place of history

By Hilary Ibbotson

Wrought iron gates, elegant staircases, wooden floors and a friendly atmosphere — that's what the Stratford's Water Street campus is all about.

Once home to the hustle and bustle of an early 20th century "normal" school or teachers' college, the building at 280 Water St. now is home to about 700 part-time students through the summer.

The school officially opened in 1909 with about 184 students.

Ron Jeffries, a security guard at the campus, said there were four identical teachers' colleges built at the same time — in Stratford, North Bay, Peterborough and Hamilton. To his knowledge, the Stratford building is the only one of the four still standing.

One of the architectural highlights of the campus is a huge stained-glass window situated in the main stairway between the third and fourth floors, donated to the teachers' college in 1919 to commemorate the loss of a teacher and fellow students in the First World War.

Also of interest is the fourth-floor auditorium in which senior students at the teachers' college performed Shakespearean plays long before the opening of the Stratford Festival. In April 1913, the performance of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice marked the beginning of an age in Stratford.

The event was so popular, it was repeated at the school year after year and was a predecessor to the Stratford Festival's main building, which was not built until 1953.

Conestoga College took over the building in 1973 and, except for an area of the basement which has housed the Stratford Festival book and gift store since 1985, there have not been many changes to its interior or exterior.

The greatest challenge for the



A stained-glass tribute to men who died in the First World War located at the Stratford campus.

(Photo by Hilary Ibbotson)

Stratford campus came in March 1988 when the Stratford Festival applied to the province to take over the Water Street building. The campus's proximity to the Festival Theatre made it prime space for parking and storage.

However, the majestic building, its staff and its students, weathered the storm and the Stratford campus is now home to many different programs, includ-

ing Futures and the Ontario Basic Skills program. As well, courses in literacy, computers and social dancing are offered at the Water Street campus.

Other courses that are offered in Stratford include the health sciences program, which is located at 130 Young Street, and the carpentry program on Dover Street, which is slated to close its doors on June 18.

Emergency loans help students

By Gary Wiebe

If full-time students can't find part-time work and their Ontario Student Assistance has run out, Conestoga College has two funds that can be utilized in some situations.

Student Services counsellor Pat Trudeau said the student services assistance fund can provide emergency loans of up to \$25 for students stuck between OSAP loans.

It is a self-sustaining fund, which means the money is available as long as recipients repay the loan.

OSAP co-ordinator Carol Walsh said there is a fund called the college emergency fund, (formerly known as the JHK day fund), geared to students facing financial difficulty in their last semester.

The fund, administered through the office of registrar Betty Martin, depends on the generosity of faculty and support staff contributions.

Loans are limited to \$500 and the student applying must be able to prove the loan can be repaid. The

emergency fund is also administered through the office of registrar, Betty Martin.

Apart from not being able to find a job, students must learn to budget more seriously.

—Trudeau

Trudeau, who recently started a college food bank, said, "I was getting one person a week with money problems and by the end of the year it was two people per week."

Trudeau added she has heard of students receiving welfare but has never seen any actual proof.

Ontario law states that any single person attending a post-secondary institution, without the prior ap-

proval of the social services department, is not entitled to collect general welfare assistance because they would be unavailable to look for full-time employment.

Walsh acknowledges things are tougher for full-time students because of the ongoing recession.

However, she said, the number of drop-outs, because of the lack of funding, is a small percentage of Conestoga's 4,500 full-time students.

Walsh estimates one to two per cent are affected.

"I see a problem potential, particularly during the last half of semesters, and if general welfare assistance doesn't kick in, there is a juicier problem."

Apart from not being able to find a job, students must learn to budget more seriously, especially first-year students.

She said many first-semester students receive OSAP funding and go out and spend most of it on having a good time without realizing there will be a price to pay when the money is gone.

Evaluation of teachers still has some wrinkles

By Hilary Ibbotson

The student appraisal of teachers (SAT) forms which were handed out at the end of the fall semester and the end of the winter semester still have some wrinkles which need to be ironed out, according to director of human resources Colin MacGregor.

There are about 320 faculty at Conestoga College, said MacGregor, and the fall evaluations reached 60-65 of those teachers. "The evaluation last fall was hit-and-miss sporadic."

The winter evaluation was supposed to have covered all teachers at all campuses; however, full results are not known yet because evaluations are still be processed.

"We processed eight sets this week," said MacGregor in a May 20 interview.

Non-probationary faculty who have reached their maximum salary grid are to be evaluated a minimum of once every three years or at the request of a faculty member or chair, said MacGregor.

While probationary faculty are to be evaluated once each semester for their first year and at least once per year after.

He said there have been three main problem areas: inconsistency, lack of understanding and problems with the mechanics of the forms.

The inconsistency comes from the fact that not all chairs are following through after evaluation are completed, said MacGregor.

Chairs are supposed to take the time to talk to faculty and go over evaluations with them.

The mechanical parts of the form will have to be reworked, said MacGregor, because not all questions pertain to every course.

He said a second part may be added with questions specific to individual programs.

As well, many faculty have come to MacGregor with the suggestion that students sign the forms. MacGregor, however, said some students may have the same teacher later and are afraid to sign their names.

A faculty appraisal committee has been set up to review the evaluation process and the forms.

The two student members on the committee are first-year business student Jamie Proudfoot and second-year business student Jason Turner.

MacGregor said the committee has heard student concerns over the forms.

"They would like to see the form before it is handed out."

The forms will appear in the student handbook and the committee will recommend that teachers talk to their students about them at the beginning of the year.

Language program helps newcomers improve skills

By Kathleen Sibley

For many newcomers to Canada, often the biggest barrier between them and practising their former professions or occupations is English.

The general arts and science (GAS) language option at Waterloo campus is meant to bridge that gap, says Bob McIver, chair of college access and preparatory studies.

"The idea is that there are many people who come to Canada whose only deficit is the (English) language."

The 16-week course counts as credit towards a diploma, said McIver. Many use the course to prepare for university, he said, and "that's fair."

Another reason Conestoga decided to implement the two-semester course was that many students who had been admitted to diploma programs were having difficulty coping with English, said McIver.

Many took classes for a year and dropped out, which "was screwing up second-year enrolment."

In the past, he added, "It has been difficult to get in and stay in successfully."

Students pay regular tuition, with the exception of international students, who are not subsidized by the Canadian government and who pay the full amount, said McIver.

Instructor Carol Trotter said the language option is normally 16 weeks, but is being delivered in 12 as part of a pilot project to see if the spring semester can be compressed.

That way, students entering college or university programs in September have a break, she said.

What that means now is that stu-

dents are being given "more homework than they've ever seen in their lives."

There are 14 students in this semester, she said, six of whom are from Japan and Korea.

Most have more difficulty reading and writing English than speaking it, she said, and some have to get used to using computers.

The course covers academic listening, taped lectures and note-taking, presentation, debating and conversational skills, idioms, pronunciation and grammar, Trotter said.

Getting universities and colleges to accept new Canadians has been "a hard sell," she said. "A lot of people have found doors closed to them. We want them to succeed."

Lily Zhu, who came to Canada four years ago, was a doctor in China.

In September, she hopes to start her MA in kinesiology at the University of Waterloo, depending on the outcome of her English course.

Zhu said she had applied to the nursing program at Doon campus but was rejected because she failed the entry exam.

"I think the GAS program really helps us, but I wish it were longer," Zhu said.

Anh Truong, who was a first-year university student in Viet Nam before she came to Canada three years ago, said she was in her first year of nursing at Conestoga's Doon campus last year.

She was having problems with English, but "my teacher heard about this program and thought it would help me improve my communication," she said. Truong will return to her regular program in September.

Guelph students may help build for needy

By Gaynor Fletcher-Crewson

Some local families living below the poverty line could eventually own their own homes due to plans discussed at a May 13 meeting at Conestoga's Guelph campus.

The meeting was just one of many scheduled to involve faculty and students in the Habitat For Humanity Canada's (HFHC) campus chapter.

Chair of trades and apprenticeship Hans Zawada and carpentry instructor Bill Knox met David Ducharme, president and volunteer of an affiliate of HFHC, to discuss ways in which the campus can promote and become fully involved with the cause at college level.

Established in 1985, the Canadian Habitat group is associated with Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI), which was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, an American couple who are neighbors of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter. It is an ecumenical Christian, non-profit, non-government organization that builds and renovates homes with volunteer labor and donated materials. It offers no-interest mortgages to low-income families who provide 500 hours of "sweat equity" in labor as their share of the down payment.

"Once the students come back in September... it is hoped that they can become actively involved with the planning and the projects," Zawada said. Plans also are being made to meet student council representatives and discuss fundraising activities.

Zawada said projects undertaken in various college programs might be incorporated into the Habitat

housing.

Ducharme said that for each eligible family, HFHC looks at a payment program structured so they can afford to pay it back. "The average is about 30 per cent of their income, whereas in most cases, where people are living in poverty, they're paying sometimes 60 to 80 percent of their income on rental accommodation."

He said because of this great expense, they never have enough money to clothe or feed their family properly. Ducharme said HFHC provides home ownership with an interest-free mortgage, so that when the family makes a payment, that amount comes off the principle. "For these people to be selected, the family selection committee looks at their ability to pay back the loan of the house and they also have to fall within a cer-

tain financial criteria — which would be living below the poverty line," he said.

Zawada said he became involved in HFHC last year at the Stratford campus and thought "it would be great" to have wider college participation.

"We actually had our students in the carpenter general program participating in the design — they went right in with the architect."

He said that after the architect put it all on paper, the students built an exact model of what the home was to look like, and are "very proud of it."

Although there may be complications obtaining land in Stratford, Zawada said the Stratford group "can't wait to get out there" now that the model is built.

"We're definitely going to play a part in this project, because if we

can pull together now with the common interest we share — let's do it. Zawada said practically all the building trades are represented within the college. "We can do a lot," he enthused — "carpentry, cabinet making, plumbing, and electrical. It would be excellent for our students to participate in this. Everyone feels good at the end."

He said the students can make stairways and cabinets for the homes right on campus, before transferring them to the site.

Ducharme agreed, saying that providing homes "is definitely a win-win situation for all."

For Knox, involvement started in October 1992, when he became a member of HFHC.

He said a friend of his was interested in starting a group home for six mentally-challenged adults whose parents were getting old.

They liked the idea of a group home rather than an institution and Knox went along to a meeting to support his friend.

There he met Ducharme.

"The biggest need in Guelph is one of raising funds," Knox said, "so we are really looking for people with good money-raising skills. They would surely be needed and very helpful to us."

He added that "it's not just new homes but it's also the renovation of homes" that occurs within the organization.

Zawada said because of his involvement, the meetings are held every Monday on the college premises.

For those wishing to become involved with HFHC, the Waterloo phone number is (519) 571-1044 and the Guelph number is (519) 763-6836.

Jimmy Carter to 'give a hand up' at housing project

By Gaynor Fletcher-Crewson

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, will be just two of about 1,100 volunteers, from Canada and the U.S., hammering home a message during the Habitat For Humanity Canada's week-long blitz build in Waterloo July 18 to 24.

The Jimmy Carter Work Project is taking place outside the U.S. for the first time since it began in 1984, said Habitat Canada, and will be blitz-building 11 homes in the Waterloo Region and 18 homes in Winnipeg in July.

Other Habitat Canada affiliates will be building homes in

Kelowna, Calgary, Saskatoon, Toronto and Halifax.

The Waterloo homes will be built on a 1.3-acre site and will contain an average 1,000 square feet at an average cost of \$75,000.

Each home will be built in the Bridgeport area from donated materials and volunteer labor and will be sponsored by a church, business or community association.

David Ducharme, president and volunteer of an affiliate of Habitat Canada, said the first family to receive a home in the 1970s "was a black American family from Illinois who had about six children.

"When it came time to sign ownership of the house, the guy said

We're not here to keep people in poverty but more to keep them out of poverty. We're not giving them a hand-out, we're giving them a hand up.

— Ducharme

he couldn't write," said Ducharme.

"So they (Habitat for Humanity

International) told him to mark an X on the line, and now those six children are all working professionals."

Former governor-general Edward Schreyer and his wife, Lily, will be accompanying the Carters in this non-profit, non-government project.

Ducharme said the payments that the residents make toward the mortgage are recycled and put toward the building of a next house.

Payments are constantly recycled and there is no profit-taking, he added.

"We're not here to keep people in poverty but more to keep them out of poverty."

Nurses acquire additional skill

By Lori Liphard

Students taking a continuing education course, called assessment skills for RNs and RNAs — level 1, benefit in their nursing career every day by learning the additional skill, said teacher Jo-Anne Costello.

The course, which began April 6 and runs for 12 weeks, includes occupational health nurses, nurses working in homes for the aged and nurses who work in hospitals, said Costello.

Issues and topics students discuss

in the class are communication skills, health histories and general assessment skills, Costello said.

"Then we just go head to toe," she said.

The class goes into a more specific assessment of the ears, eyes, nose and throat.

The breasts, lungs, abdomen, arteries, veins, and the musculo-skeletal system are also assessed.

Costello said she also shows videos on nursing-care plans, the respiratory system and breast self-examination and is hoping to get videos on abdominal and skin

assessment.

Kim McLeod, a graduate of the RN program, said the course makes her feel more confident in her work at a nursing home.

McLeod said if she comes across an emergency at work, she has to assess whether or not the person should go to a hospital.

Catherine Upper, also an RN, said she is currently working in private nursing in Guelph.

She said she decided to take the assessment skills course because she needed more training and experience assessing patients.



The pressure's rising!

First year nursing student Cynthia Guylee watches the needle rise and fall as she checks Bob McDougall's pressure. Practical experience is part of the students' nursing program.

(Photo by Hilary Ibbotson)

Shaken machines shower chocolate

By Colleen Allen

There is a dangerous new method of obtaining food from vending machines in the college; with just a little shake of the machine followed by a quick jolt or two, food mysteriously falls into the dispenser.

It's cheap, it's quick and it's called vandalism; something which has been going on at the college for almost two months.

Students have been vandalizing certain vending machines at Conestoga college for quite some time now, said Steve Farlow, supervisor at Red Carpet food services.

The problems are in the wood-working and electrical skills area,

said Farlow, mainly in the electrical skills area, where the machines are not bolted to the wall as they are in other areas of the college.

If the machines are shaken there is the danger of them falling, said Farlow. "If the person were persistent enough and got the momentum going, there would always be that danger. It is very unlikely, but it has been known to happen."

Losses from the vandalism add up to a substantial amount, said Farlow. "For every act of vandalism there's a labor cost involved."

"It seems it's only happening during night class," said Steve Lesperance, vending route sales-

person for Red Carpet.

"The vending machines have been shaken and they've knocked the bars (chocolate bars) out of the rings," said Lesperance. "They get about 24 bars every time they do that. It's been going on for over a month, and it seems to be getting worse. I'd guess there was \$20 worth of bars missing just today."

To prevent further vandalism Red Carpet is considering bolting machines to the wall, said Lesperance.

"They are also talking about putting a video camera in to see who's doing it."

Management at Red Carpet plans to prosecute students found responsible.

New facilities

Leadership program moves in fall

By Becki Chmielewski

Starting in September, Conestoga College's recreational leadership program, currently working out of the YWCA at 84 Frederick St., will be located at the Waterloo campus.

According to Denis Kuhl, co-ordinator of the program, the move coincides with the relocation of the Waterloo campus's business programs.

The recreational leadership program has been taught off campus since 1980. It was shifted from the Doon campus in order to be more directly involved with the community and utilize the community's resources.

"With the resources in the community closer at hand, we are able to use them more effectively. People from the various agencies can come in here (the YWCA) and do something for us for an hour, then go back to work more easily than perhaps going out to Doon (campus)," Kuhl said.

Another positive aspect to conducting the program off campus is the space. By working out of the YWCA, students and faculty do not have other people knocking on the door trying to get in because it is their turn to use a particular room.

"It gives us a lot of flexibility to do what we want to with the program and it has allowed us to change the format of the program," Kuhl said. A good point about relocating to the Waterloo campus, he said, is that the students and faculty will still have their own space.

"In order to run the program the way we do, we require the kind of space we have. I spend as much time with students in here (his office) as I do in the classroom, probably more, so we need the individual offices. We will also have our own resource centre, which is a real plus," he added.

Recreational leadership is a two-year diploma program, with about 46 students.

From the 420 applications sent in (up from approximately 250 in past years) 26 people are selected. Applicants are asked to fill out a questionnaire in which biographical

"I think if you look at all of the humanities and human service programs, they're all over subscribed. I think it's part of the economic times. Jobs are scarce and people want to get upgraded and educated, so there's more demand for the programs."

— Denis Kuhl

information, data concerning previous work experience and extra-curricular activities are detailed, as well as the applicant's interest in the program.

Next, a seven-to-10-minute interview is conducted to assess the applicant's communication skills.

"I think if you look at all of the humanities and human service programs, they're all over subscribed. I think it's part of the economic times. Jobs are scarce and people want to get upgraded and educated, so there's more demand for the programs," Kuhl said.

Students enrolled in the program learn a variety of things, such as kinesiology, research techniques, first aid, marketing and public relations.

"The students get a broad, general background of recreation skills. We try to help them expand their experience because most of them have some experience in recreation and may have some idea as to what they want to do or what they think recreation is all about," he said.

Because there is a large variety of

topics, as students work through them, they begin to identify their strengths, whether it is working with seniors, young offenders, in an outdoor environment or in municipal recreation departments.

Students are evaluated on the numerous reports and other written work they complete as well as their understanding and ability to talk about, if not demonstrate, the skills they are supposed to be learning.

One part of the program requires each student to teach the other students a skill. In the past, rock climbing, cake decorating, wine making and the usual basketball and water polo have been taught.

Kuhl said the program is based on skills and each unit has a list of skills attached to learn.

"When they reach their level of comfort with their ability then the students arrange an appointment with the faculty involved with that unit. There's not a lot of testing or exams, but we might spend an hour in the office taking about the content of a unit," Kuhl explained.

Students must go on three placements totalling 12 weeks. The first occurs for two weeks during the first year of the program and is mainly for observational purposes. Another placement takes place in the fall of the second year for four weeks and the last placement is for six weeks at the end of the program. The last two placements allow the students to get more involved with the agency.

For the placements, students work in the Kitchener-Waterloo area or their home towns and may go to the YMCA, group homes, associations for the developmentally challenged or the agricultural museum in Milton.

For the six-week placement, one student went to work in Vancouver while another went to Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Kuhl said that last year the program had a placement rate of 89 per cent.

Barbecue ends deck work for multi-skills program

By Karl-Ann Puckerling

Members of the multi-skills program from the Guelph campus have completed construction of the deck behind the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

The project, finished May 21, was part of a 30-week program organized by Canadian Job Strategy, which is funded by the federal government.

"From my observation it has been an excellent project," said Tom Lumsden, co-ordinator of carpentry programs at the Guelph campus. "The students took real pride in doing it."

Students, who began the project on April 13, were treated to a barbecue, hosted by Duane Shadd, supervisor of customer services and community relations at the Doon campus, on their final day.

Hans Zawada, chair of technology at the Guelph campus, said the deck was not built for the college alone.

The 16 students who built the deck, are to begin their work placements before receiving their certificates July 2.

They now will be doing work

situation experience for six weeks, Lumsden said.

All of the students in the multi-skills program have job placements, at which they will work 40-hour weeks, according to The students will be able to use the tools that were supplied during the program for their placements or they can purchase them for half price.

Zawada said the recreation complex belongs to the community and the college. Any outside group within the community has access to the recreational facilities, the deck and barbecue pit.

Al Kyte, a member of the multi-skills program, said he enjoyed the program and was looking forward to going home to do his placement.

The stones for the barbecue pit were donated by Arriscraft Corp. of Cambridge. The deck built at Doon campus is similar to one constructed at the Guelph campus.

Linus Laugalys, from Arriscraft, said the benefit of donating the materials was that the deck will be around for a while and the students would be learning something.

Questionnaire used to screen applicants

By Lori Liphard

Using questionnaires to determine who will be admitted to health sciences programs has proved to be more effective and less time-consuming than interviews, according to Bill Jeffrey, dean of health sciences.

The interviewing process, he said, was too subjective and was eliminated in 1989.

Jeffrey explained that if someone came in to be interviewed and, for example, if he did not like the person's hair or clothing, "that would really affect the whole concept how I questioned or marked you."

The best way to solve that problem, Jeffrey said, was to produce the questionnaire, which candidates fill out at program information days.

The questionnaire challenges the candidate's grammar and general English skills.

The questionnaire involves three major approaches learned in the nursing programs: clinical, lab and classroom.

Problem-solving questions are also asked.

The admissions process is based on the questionnaire, which is worth 30 per cent and 70 per cent is based on high school marks.

Questionnaires are then marked by faculty and taken to the registrar's office. The health sciences department then receives a turn-around document from the office on the academic strength of the candidate.

The registrar has a computer system which ranks marks from highest to lowest.

Depending whether or not health sciences is looking for 70 candidates to fill seats, they will take the first 70 people from the list with the highest mark.

Jeffrey said the questionnaire is marked by "definitely specified criteria that gives a certain number of marks for content. It's a very detailed process."

What is important, Jeffrey said, is that when looking at admissions, if a person appeals a decision, (which a candidate can do) "the appeal process must be very objective."

"There can't be any room for gross error in judgement and there must be fairness," he said.

He said when candidates do not get into the program, the health sciences "get a whole flood of calls because the (rejection) letters are going out."

Jeffrey joked he "should take a holiday next week because next week is bad news."

At program information days, 150-200 people attended for the five or six sessions that were held. Jeffrey said the sessions began in April and just recently finished.

During the first part of the session, candidates receive general information about the programs that start in September, where tuition costs, prerequisites and the admissions process are outlined.

Small tours are organized so people will feel more comfortable asking questions, he said. "And hopefully you go away with all your questions answered and leave with a notion of what the health sciences' wing looks like."



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Varsity sports become casualties of college cutbacks

By Colleen Allen

September may look dismal to those students who had plans of participating in the intercollegiate men's and women's basketball or volleyball programs. The only teams that are going to sport the school's varsity colors will be the soccer, baseball and hockey teams. Many factors were considered before a decision to cut the basketball and volleyball teams was made, said Dan Young, head of Conestoga's recreation program, including construction of a nearby student residence and the amalgamation of the business programs at the Doon campus. A committee of staff and students was selected to review the athletics programs, he said. "The biggest thing for the committee was meeting the needs of the students. We looked at intercollegiate, intramural and extramural teams, then

looked at the success of these teams, the media value and the number of people coming out." Young said the facts were both surprising and interesting. "Intramurals have grown a great deal over the past five years." This year alone there were 2,200 students who participated in the intramurals, he said. "That's a great number when you consider the population of the school is 3,800." He said the committee recommended four activities be cut from the athletic programs, because it would "free up some money to help operate the department and help operate a more expanded intramural and extramural program." Deciding which activities would be eliminated was the most difficult part of the decision, said Young. "It was a tough decision because of the success the (men's) volleyball team has had in the last couple of years. The basketball team was also com-

ing along." The committee met in January and February to consider the number of people trying out for the teams, how the teams fared in the league and the number of participants out for practice. Penny English, who participated on both the varsity soccer and volleyball teams this past year, said she was not surprised by the decision. "It's fine by me," she said. "The teams (women's volleyball and basketball) never really did that well." There was not a good turnout for women's volleyball this year, she added. "I don't think the interest is really there. The turnout kind of showed that." Contrary to English's view was that of Darren Richmond, a former basketball and volleyball player. "I think it's pathetic that a school like Conestoga doesn't have the funding for sports teams," he said.

"I'm surprised that a popular sport like basketball would be cut," he said. "The fact that there was no support from the fans probably had a lot to do with the decision." What is really upsetting is cuts to the volleyball team, said Richmond. "It's a shame to see a team do so well, and have such a good thing, and then see them take it away." Richmond said the cuts will affect the decision of younger athletes to come to Conestoga. "It will definitely affect the boys in the K-W area. A lot of them probably won't bother to apply to the college. They'll apply elsewhere." Young agreed there might be students who have an interest in playing one of these sports. They may indeed go to another college to have this opportunity, he said. However, he said, emphasis will be placed on hockey, softball and

soccer. "If a student is interested in playing any of these sports, it will definitely attract them to Conestoga." The cutbacks have also affected players from the men's basketball team, said Richmond. "Eight guys are to come back from this year's team. At least half are transferring and trying to get scholarships elsewhere." Young said he is sympathetic to this situation. "I wrote letters to all of the athletes on the men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams," he said. "These letters were sent out in late April, so that if students were interested in switching schools we could make some accommodations. For those who have approached me about switching schools, I have put them in touch with directors of programs and coaches at other colleges. We've tried to accommodate the athletes."

ECE worker enjoys children and work

By Sean Meyer

Every day, Shelly Schenk has a heavy workload facing her, but that does not mean she is not enjoying every minute of it. "I find this job to be very challenging," said Schenk, the field placement officer for the early childhood education program at Conestoga College. "The job has only existed since the fall. Before, things were done by a couple of people. Schenk's duties involve arranging of field placement for all students in the ECE program; making contact with area nursery schools, day care centres, hospitals or other interested facilities; choosing the appropriate student for each placement; and supervising students while in their placement. The hardest part of Schenk's job is trying to place students in their first choice for field placement. "We try to place every student in their first choice, but, it's not always possible," said Schenk. "It's a lot of hard work."

The work Schenk puts in does not go unnoticed. "Shelly does things right," said Barb Glaser, secretary to the chair of child studies. "I've known Shelly for four years and she always works hard. When Shelly is doing things you know they will get done." Schenk, who graduated from Mohawk College's ECE program in 1981, has been working at the college for about eight years. She says the best part of her job is working with both her students and meeting people in the search for field placements. "It's a very co-operative effort, with a lot of give and take. This past winter we placed about 320 students . . . We do our best to make everyone happy." Making people happy is something that Schenk tries to accomplish whenever possible. "I always thought about entering the teaching field, ever since high school," said Schenk. "I always found school to be a pretty positive experience . . . Some of the people I enjoyed the most, early in my life, were teach-

ers. I want to try and have a positive impact on the children I meet." Glaser said Schenk's best quality "is the way she interacts with the children. She's very open and helpful . . . I'm glad she works here." Schenk, 31, first learned of the ECE program when she took a field trip to Conestoga College while attending high school in Cambridge. "My father worked for the CPR (CP Rail) as a station agent, so we moved a lot," said Schenk. "I remember feeling devastated when we moved, but looking back, it was the best thing that could have happened. You just don't have the same opportunities and experiences when living in a small town." Schenk enjoys the opportunity she has to help young children during the most important time of their lives. "At times students, teachers and staff spend more of the child's waking hours with them than their parents do," she says. "We're not trying to replace parents, but it's important that we're there for them."



Shelly Schenk, field placement officer at the ECE, answers one of her many daily phonecalls.

(Photo by Sean Meyer)

College medalist may go to Tai Pai

By Tim Pozza

Neil Gollub of Conestoga College's computer-aided design mechanical program (CAD mechanical) will compete in the World Skills competitions in Tai Pai, Taiwan, July 19 - Aug. 3 — if enough money can be raised. Gollub and instructor Mitch Wozniak need \$11,600 to make the trip a reality. According to Gail Smyth of liaison services, donations have been coming in steadily. As of May 13, donations had reached close to the halfway mark, at \$5,464. So far, the Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph Training Advisory Council (K-W GTAC) has given \$500 and CADKey (the U.S. designers of the software with which Gollub will compete) donated \$2,514. Other contributors include the Doon Students Association (\$200), Conestoga College Alumni Association (\$100), Conestoga's faculty union (\$200), Go Plastics of Kitchener

(\$1,000), and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (\$450). "We're accepting from anybody who walks in and wants to give," said Smyth. Gollub qualified in last year's Skills Canada competition in CAD mechanical when he won the gold. Gollub also won gold in the same category in Canada-wide competitions held in Pickering this year. As a result, he qualified to travel to the U.S. Skills Olympics scheduled for Kentucky June 20 - 26. This year, Tim Reid, a recent graduate of the woodworking technician program, also took gold for his entry in the cabinet making category. Reid was the recipient of at least two awards for academic standing, according to Mike McClements, chair of technology. Jim Gerrard, a second-year construction engineering technology student, took silver in the CAD architectural division.

Functions to be explained

Access and preparatory studies will issue prospectus

By Kenton Augerman

Conestoga College's school of college access and preparatory studies plans to explain its function by issuing a prospectus in about one month. The prospectus is necessary, said dean Sharon Kalbfleisch, because "it's difficult to explain to our internal community, as well as to our external community, what we are." "So we thought if we had a publication, we could do that explaining." According to Kalbfleisch, the report is a revision of a 14-page draft currently in existence. The revision will include information about pre-health and pre-technology programs in general arts and science, as well as a project to place women in fields of trade and technology, she said. The document is designed to highlight the school's accomplishments and "high-profile successful areas," said Kalbfleisch. One of these areas, as outlined in

the draft, is a program to help sole-support mothers define career goals. Another is a program to improve English skills of math and engineering students at the University of Waterloo. The prospectus will use examples of students who did well in access and preparatory programs to "provide a human element, make facts come off the page and put flesh on the bones," she said. Kelly Germann is one student who will be chronicled. After finishing high school, Germann, unsure of a career, enrolled in general arts and science at Conestoga College. Two years later, she graduated with a diploma and the knowledge that she wanted to pursue a career in science. She is currently taking environmental science at the University of Waterloo. Testimonials such as Germann's enable the federal and provincial governments to "see that their

money has made a difference," said Kalbfleisch. Government agencies such as Employment and Immigration Canada and the Ministry of Education "provide dollars to the college" so people can improve themselves and enter the workforce, she said. According to the draft, courses offered by the school prepare people to succeed in training programs, the workplace, the community and their personal lives. Immigrants, the unemployed, adults learning to read and high-school graduates unsure of their futures are groups who benefit from the school, the draft says. "Our objective is commitment to the removal of barriers, to a level playing field for entry into existing college programs," Kalbfleisch says in the draft. If there's one message Kalbfleisch hopes the publication communicates, "I suppose it's that we can be pretty responsive to different needs and fairly creative in how we address them," she said.

New group hopes to change direction of their lives

By Kathleen Sibley

The 14 women in Conestoga's Focus for Change program have enough in common to make the return to school a less intimidating experience.

Some are victims of abuse and violence, a few speak English as a second language and others are widows.

But all are single parents on social assistance who have decided to change the direction of their lives, said instructor Debbie Cox.

Focus is a non-credit bridging program for women who have not completed Grade 12, said Cox. Participants are referred by the Employment Resource Centre at regional social services office, she said.

Most women who complete the 12-week program enter an upgrading course to get their high-school diploma, Cox said, and many go on to college diploma programs.

Approximately 12 women from Focus are finishing their first year of a diploma program at Conestoga and two at other colleges, she said.

Because the program is the first step of "a long process," tracking

former participants is difficult.

But, she added, "Our point of view is that any woman who furthers her education is a success."

Cox said the course is offered at Waterloo campus from January to June and at Cambridge from September to December.

It includes academic assessment, career research, job shadowing and a work placement, she said. "For

many, it's the first time looking at a well-paid job."

Cox said students learn as much as they can about different jobs and are encouraged to explore the possibility of pursuing a non-traditional occupation.

Working in teams, they plan to invite as guest speakers and where to go to investigate career opportunities, she said.

Focus of change participants find success in new group

By Kathleen Sibley

A recipe for success calls for more than just academics. It requires generous measures of self-confidence and the support of friends, all of which Focus for Change participants say they have found in their new group of friends.

AnnMarie MacDonald, mother of a seven and 15-year-old, said she loves the Conestoga College program, designed to prepare women on social assistance for academic upgrading, because she has made lots of new friends with whom she has "a lot in common."

She said ECE interests her but she

is also thinking of becoming a parole or probation officer.

"I think it's challenging for a woman, and something clicked as I was doing the research."

MacDonald was one of 14 Focus students who filled a room with clothes of all sizes they brought to exchange with other students, staff and faculty May 14 at the Waterloo campus, where the program is being offered.

And, while the clothes were free, the coffee was not, with the 25-cent fee being donated to AIDS research, said Focus participant Marsha Caudle.

Instructor Debbie Cox said the

exchange is a regular part of the Focus program and is entirely organized by the students.

She called it a way students help and support each other.

Because all the women are raising children and are on social assistance, buying clothes is a luxury many cannot afford, she said.

"Clothing is a major problem for the unemployed."

Unemployment, however, no longer looks like a life sentence to the program's participants, said Cox. Each of the 14 is learning about work that suits and interests her, she said.

Amira Shamon, mother of four,

said she is looking at a career in early childhood education (ECE), and Lise Lashuk, now in an upgrading course, said she has to finish a two-year general arts and sciences program.

Then she hopes to get into radio-broadcasting or journalism at Doon campus, she said. "I'm already writing a book about romance."

Juliette Nusink said she already has a crafts business but is in the program to get the push she needs to get her business off the ground. "It's a stepping stone."

Laurie Burkitt said ideas are the least of her worries. Forensic science, social services and paramedic

work are all possibilities, she said. "This is as good a place as any to start."

"I came to get a life," said Carol Schneider. Data entry, bookkeeping and accounting are fields of interest for her, she said, and Marsha Caudle, who plans to become an electrical engineering technician, said she wanted to go back to school and "I was told this is the fastest way."

Getting somewhere is Brenda Burke's motive for getting out of the house and into Focus, she said. She would like to work as a nurse, pharmacist or dental assistant, she said.



Mike Verwey (left), Conestoga College senior training consultant, presents Elliot Goddard with his certificate May 10.

(Photo by Kenton Augerman)

Computer grads finish 'leap of faith'

By John Summers

Graduates of the microcomputer applications certificate program were praised for taking a "leap of faith" and upgrading their computer skills, at graduation ceremonies held in the Doon campus' Blue Room.

"In a tough economic climate, in a time of great uncertainty and high unemployment, you've chosen to upgrade your skills," Norm Johnstone, Conestoga's director of training and development, told the 63 graduates at the May 10 session. "You've taken that leap of faith."

"In a time when no one knows where the jobs are, it's an act of faith for you to have taken a training program at the college."

The graduates from the three microcomputer application specialties — business software, CAD/CAM and programming — were sponsored by the Canada Employment Centre and were required to take the course as part of their unemployment benefits.

"We don't always provide the services a lot of people might be look-

ing for," said Claire Elgersma, branch manager of the Canada Employment Centre. "But it seems for (the graduates) going through the program, the purpose of the training is serving a valuable service."

"We want to get people back to work as quickly as possible, into jobs that will be both challenging and will provide good income to (the graduates and their families.)"

Students graduating from Guelph campus's personal computers and business software module were sponsored by the Canadian Job Strategies program.

"Jobs are looming straight ahead for many of you," Ann Peters, manager of the jobsOntario Training Fund, told the graduates.

Johnstone said one of the most significant things the graduates did was change. "Learning is change. You (the graduates) discovered to learn can be fun; you can do it."

Johnstone also commended the teachers, some of whom made career choices themselves in teaching the certificate programs, for "acquiring a new set of skills and launching a new career."

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Pub night at Twist planned for Orientation Week

By Duncan R. Inglis

Conestoga College's student representatives have made Sept. 8 a pub night at the Twist, Waterloo's largest night club.

The Twist, Doon campus, an organization called Playfair and the Doon Student Association will host Orientation Week activities from Sept. 7 to Sept. 9.

The DSA tentatively agreed to set ticket prices for the Twist pub at \$6 advance and \$8 at the door.

Entertainment manager Brad Logel said the DSA should rent costumes for part of the Twist engagement's activities.

Logel said mock sumo-wrestling in padded outfits could be a fun and

entertaining way to get students involved.

"They're so padded that it's hard to move," said Logel, who stood and limbered around as if he were an outfitted combatant.

"You (the competitors) get in and motion towards one another," said Logel. "Someone usually falls and the other finishes it with a ritual belly-flop."

Students at the University of Waterloo participate in these mock wrestling events periodically at Federation Hall. If possible, the DSA would like to borrow tricycles from early childhood education for "trike-races" that could also be held at the Twist, said Becky Boertien, activities co-ordinator.

The DSA has planned many different activities for Orientation Week and continues to look into other forms of entertainment.

Playfair, an organization that regularly entertains college and university students across Canada, will organize activities for the first afternoon Sept. 7.

Porky's Party and Barbecue, a car rally, a casino lunch, the Twist pub and another Orientation Night pub will round out the three-day event.

Jeff Tanner, a hard-core rock singer who was involved in a talent search nooner last semester, could be booked for a registration week nooner, said Boertien.

Tanner entertains and is afford-

able, she said. Some acts would cost about \$400, whereas "Tanner has done this before and would probably do it for about \$25 or \$50."

Kitchener radio station AM-109 has been tentatively slated to play music from the station's mobile unit. With recent changeover in ownership, Boertien said, the DSA will have to verify the radio station's participation sometime in July.

Boertien said the DSA will look into alcohol licensing for the barbecue at the new deck behind the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

Activity ideas discussed at the meeting include beach volleyball.

Logel said he would like to see students form teams and piece by piece remove clothing and tie clothes together. The team to form the longest line of clothes wins the activity.

Rolling golf balls up partners' bodies was suggested, along with tug of war overtop of Jello. For the car rally, the DSA plans to send students on a scavenger hunt (a fact-finding mission based on lists) through Kitchener-Waterloo and possibly Cambridge.

After facts are gathered, students will meet at the Edelweiss Restaurant and present what they acquired. Prizes will be given to those with the most information obtained.

Small businesses are forming 'backbone' of economy

By Kenton Augerman

The federal and provincial governments are starting to consider small business "somewhat of an economic savior," according to Conestoga College business teacher Ian Matthew.

Politicians are realizing small business will form the "backbone" of the economy, Matthew said. "The small business guys are the guys who are going to create all the wealth and all the jobs. There's no doubt about it."

Consequently, the time is right for Conestoga College to launch a small business program, he said.

The eight-month certificate program, scheduled to begin in September at the Doon campus, will

consist of morning and an afternoon sessions of 25 students each.

Some of the topics to be covered in 27 areas of study are basic computer skills, record keeping and hiring and training employees.

Guest speakers from local banks, law offices and accounting firms will supplement classroom sessions taught by Matthew and business instructor Dave Hummel.

Small business is being inundated with cast-offs from big business, Matthew said. As companies reduce their payrolls, many former middle-management personnel are starting enterprises of their own.

"I think that's the way the economy is going to go," Matthew said. "You're going to have a lot of independent businesses that offer ser-

vices that probably were there within big business before, but through cutbacks and attrition and streamlining, now there's an individual out there that's going to provide you with, say, word processing abilities."

According to Matthew, many people are finding themselves unemployed for the first time, with no place to go.

"The composition of the people who are unemployed now is scary," he said. "There are guys who have worked in one place all their lives as dedicated employees, but boom — the hammer comes down and 'we're moving to the (United) States', or 'we're closing down', or whatever. What do these guys do?"

Many "kind of fulfil their

dreams" by becoming self-employed, Matthew said.

But this isn't as easy as one might think, he added. "It's a little bit like a dream, going into small business. People get carried away with 'I wanna be my own boss' and people who've never been in the position have this conception that being your own boss is just great."

"It's awful. You're working 18 hours a day. You can't sleep at night (because you are) worrying about the banker calling or whether you can sign those payroll cheques tomorrow."

Matthew has gained this knowledge first hand, having owned and operated about a dozen different businesses in Kitchener and Toronto.

In addition to his teaching job at the college, he is a chartered accountant, landlord and partner in a trucking company. A make-your-own wine business is next on his agenda.

As for developing a successful small business program at Conestoga College, Matthew said, "I know a little bit about what it takes and it's not an academic environment."

It's a very practical, roll-up-your-sleeves and get-to-work attitude that will be portrayed in that course because that's what those people need."

The program will be "very hands on," he said. "It's probably less academic than most courses taught here."

Federal government will cut spending to ESL program

By Kathleen Sibley

In its search to cut expenditures, the federal government has stopped buying seats from Conestoga College to provide English classes to new Canadians.

Sharon Kalbfleisch, dean of college access and preparatory studies, said the contract the college has had with the federal government since 1969 to provide the English classes ends this year.

Next year, she said, Conestoga, along with school boards, church groups and private institutions, will have to bid on such contracts, although English classes which students themselves pay for will

continue.

Kalbfleisch said that over the past 18 months, full-time faculty has been reduced to five from 15. By September, she said, at least two more jobs will disappear.

In the past, the college never knew if the government would purchase enough seats to run a class until just before classes started, said Kalbfleisch.

The ESL department did know the government was planning a 47 per cent reduction in federally purchased seats, she said.

But, she said, "Given the history, there was some hope. On the other hand, they've often said that and come back with requests for

twice the amount."

Some ESL instructors began to look at the constant layoff notices they received and think the administration was always crying wolf, said Kalbfleisch.

For one instructor who received 11 pink slips in 15 years, the notices were seen as idle threats that were all bark and no bite, she said.

"It was difficult to believe that this is reality."

To free Conestoga from dependency on the government as its sole source of funding, Kalbfleisch said, the college has tried to diversify its language training programs.

For example, Conestoga has supplied ESL programs for University

of Waterloo students, many of whom are in graduate studies but need to improve their language skills, she said.

The college is also trying to attract more international students, and is now in the second phase of Labor Market Language Training, a two-semester pilot project geared towards helping advanced students prepare for college or university.

Kalbfleisch said reliance on government funding has made faculty at colleges across the province "complacent." She said there is a reduction in what the government is willing or able to pay for. "It's time to be creative."

John Gee, supervisor of the counselling unit at the Kitchener Canada Employment and Immigration Centre, said this year's reduction in the purchase of seats for ESL classes at Conestoga is due to the three-year agreement Ontario has with the federal government to reduce the amount spent on language training.

Part of that agreement, he said, was to do all down-sizing in the final year.

Gee said the federal government has declared an open market on language training.

"Basically, it's whoever can provide the best training at the most reasonable price."

Groundskeepers to have busy summer

By Sean Meyer

In addition to the usual duties facing the groundskeepers at Conestoga College, there are many more projects planned for the summer, according to the head groundskeeper.

The projects range from landscaping for new parking lots to moving a soccer field.

"We have a list of things to do, but sometimes things get dropped on us," said Peter Higgins. "If you fall behind, it's not their (the college) worry, it's ours. Then all of a sudden you have twice as much work to do."

But Higgins said the pressure encountered when work falls behind is "not bad, though . . . I guess you get that everywhere."

Higgins, who has worked at the

college for 24 years, and the rest of the groundskeeping crew are responsible for about 25 acres of land around the college and another 10 acres around the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

The groundskeeping crew has many other jobs besides mowing lawns and spraying weeds.

"We pretty well have to look after everything that has to do with the outside," said Higgins. "Putting signs up, taking signs down, putting in parking meters, digging holes — lots of things."

Groundskeepers also are expected to help with summer projects planned by the college.

There will be landscaping for the new business trade centre as well as two new parking lots to be built behind the wood skills building and between the recreation centre and

the tennis courts.

The soccer practice field will also be moved.

Besides these special projects, the arrival of summer can present other problems.

"Summer can be the worst (season for working) if it's really hot," said Higgins. "It's much easier to warm up when working in the winter than it is to cool down in the summer."

This makes spring Higgins's favorite season. "This time of the year is best. Everything is coming up, looking green, looking good. In the middle of summer, the city doesn't let you water the grass, so it gets brown. It doesn't look as nice."

When it does rain, Higgins and the groundskeepers work on regular maintenance jobs which must be done.

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